

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-12 AID-20 RSR-01 /111 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2004

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8977

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR VS

SUBJECT: DRV CHARGES RE CIVILIAN PRISONERS HELD BY GVN

JEC FOR AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN

REF: STATE 097602

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REPRESENTS DATA IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE TO THIS EMBASSY ON GVN PRISON POPULATION.
2. AS OF DEC 31 1972 THE TOTAL CAPACITY OF THE GVN CORRECTION SYSTEM, INCLUDING NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL CORRECTION CENTERS WAS ESTIMATED AT 36,923. THE TOTAL CAPACITY OF THE GVN DETENTION SYSTEM WHICH COMPRISES DETENTION CENTERS, JAILS, AND LOCKUPS DOWN TO THE LOWEST LOCAL LEVELS WAS 15,018. THIS MAKES THE OVERALL TOTAL 51,941 AS OF THAT DATE.
3. ALSO AS OF DEC 31 1972 THE TOTAL ESTIMATED POPULATION OF THE GVN CORRECTION SYSTEM WAS 39,657. (THE EXCESS OVER THE STATED CAPACITY WAS DUE TO THE FACT THAT EMERGENCY CAPACITY CAN EXCEED THE NORMAL FIGURE.) THE TOTAL ESTIMATED POPULATION OF THE GVN DETENTION SYSTEM WAS 4,060. THIS PUTS THE OVERALL TOTAL AT 43,717 AS OF THAT DATE.

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4. THE FIGURES WE HAVE ON SPECIFIC PRISON FACILITIES AS OF DEC 31 1972 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

	CAPACITY	POPULATION
(A) CHI HOA	5,175	6,729
(B) CON SON	11,135	9,934
(C) THU DUC	1,240	1,452
(D) TAN HIEP	1,700	1,818

WE DO NOT HAVE INFORMATION ON THE OTHER PRISONS MENTIONED REFTEL. HOWEVER WE KNOW THAT THE POULATION AT PHU AUOC AS OF DEC 31 1972 WAS APPROX 31,000, ALL OF WHOM WERE POWS. THE PHU QUOC FACILITY IS NOW EMPTY AS VERIFIED BE RECENT OVER FLIGHT BY TDY FSOS.

5. SINCE THE END OF 1972 THE TOTAL GVN PRISON AND DETENTION POPULATION HAD ECLINED SIGNIFICANTLY BECAUSE OF LE RELEASE OF AT LEAST 6,000 PRISONERS ON SUCH OCCASIONS AS TET AND BUDDHA' S BIRTHDAY AND AS A GESTURE TOWARD NATIONAL RECONCILIATION FOLLOWING THE CEASEFIRE. EARLIER THIS MONTH 750 OF THE REMAINING 5,081 COMMUNIST OFFENDERS WERE RELEASED UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT PROVISIONS DEALING WITH CIVILIAN DETAINEES.

6. THE GVN CLASSIFIES ITS CIVILIAN PRISONERS AND DETAINEES INTO TWO MAIN CATEGORIES, COMMON CRIMINALS AND COMMUNIST OFFENDERS. THERE ARE ALSO TWO LESSER CATEGORIES ARVN MILITARY OFFENDERS WHO HAPPEN TO BE IN CIVILIAN PRISONS AND CIVILANS AWAITING TRIAL. AT THE PRESENT TIME THESE CATEGORIES ARE CONSTITUTED APPROXIMATELY AS FOLLOWS:

COMMON CRIMINALS	19,000
COMMUNIST OFFENDERS	4,300
MILITARY OFFENDERS IN CIVILIAN PRISONS	6,000
PRISONERS AWAITING TRIAL	4,000
TOTAL	33,300

WE BELIEVE THAT THE 19,000 PRISONERS LISTED AS COMMON CRIMINALS INCLUDE AT LEAST 8,000 WHO WERE RECENTLY CLASSIFIED AS CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMUNIST OFFENDERS BUT HAVE SINCE BEEN CONVICTED OF VIOLATIONS OF LAW OR ACTS OF VIOLENCE PUNISHABLE UNDER ORDINARY CRIMINAL LAWS. APART FROM THIS DIFFERENCE WE BELIEVE THE ABOVE BREAK-DOWN IS ROUGHLY ACCURATE.

WHITEHOUSE

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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